

DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

CRIMES

- The number of reported homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while with robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, the number represents known incidents.
- CSU Stockton began reporting January 1, 1999.
- Cuesta College began reporting July 1, 1999.
- Laguna Woods Police Department started reporting separately from the Orange County Sheriff's Department on July 1, 1999.
- Maricopa Police Department reported data for January through August 1999. In September it became a contract agency with the Kern County Sheriff's Department. Its data for September through December 1999 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Orange Police Department did not report property values for November and December 1999 due to changes in its record's management system.
- Port Hueneme Police Department did not report property values for November and December 1999 due to changes in its record's management system.
- Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department implemented a new record's management system in June 1998. The new system failed to separate the contract cities from the unincorporated area. The error was not discovered until after the CJSOC's 1998 file was closed, therefore the counts for the contract cities are underreported.
- The Riverside County Sheriff's Department implemented a new record's management system mid-year 1999 and is experiencing technical problems with the system.

ARRESTS

Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR)

- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, MACR selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment.
- Felony arrest counts may include some misdemeanor warrants for felony offenses.
- The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data.
- CSU Stockton began reporting January 1, 1999.
- Cuesta College began reporting July 1, 1999.
- Laguna Woods Police Department started reporting separately from the Orange County Sheriff's Department on July 1, 1999.

- Maricopa Police Department reported data for January through August 1999. In data for September it became a contract agency with the Kern County Sheriff's Department. Its data for September through December 1999 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Lake County Sheriff's Department reported partial data for December 1999 due to a computer system failure.
- The Riverside County Sheriff's Department implemented a new record's management system mid-year 1999 and is experiencing technical problems with the system.

ADULT PROBATION

- Los Angeles County's adult probation caseload counts were corrected for 1997 and 1998 due to reporting problems.
- Los Angeles County's corrected counts for placed on probation increased from previously published 1997 data.
- Solano County did not report data for December 1999.
- The sources of data are county probation departments' monthly reports of summary data.
- The data include adults placed on supervised probation only. Court probation, diversion, and summary probation are not included.
- Persons are counted once for each jurisdiction. Therefore, data include original grants of probation and do not include subsequent grants of probation to persons already under probation supervision ordered by the same level court in the same county. Also, probationers under jurisdiction of both superior and lower courts (or consolidated courts) and any who are jurisdictional cases of more than one county are counted more than one time in statewide totals.
- In 1998, labels were changed from Superior Court and Lower Court to Felony offense and Misdemeanor offense because of court consolidations.
- Counties that have consolidated their courts only report felony caseloads.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS)

- Adult felony arrest disposition data normally represent final dispositions on approximately 65-75 percent of the total adult felony arrests made during a calendar year. In the aggregate, the data generally describe state dispositional patterns.
- Data selected for the 1990 OBTS report file includes dispositions given in the calendar year and processed by the DOJ in April of the following year. The 1991 and 1992 OBTS report files were accessed through August of the following year. The 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996 OBTS report files were accessed in May 1998. The 1997 OBTS report file was accessed in September 1998. The 1998 OBTS report file was accessed in November 1999.

- Caution should be used when comparing conviction and nonconviction dispositions since budget constraints necessitated the processing of conviction dispositions on a priority basis. The impact of this procedural change is yet to be determined.
- OBTS data are grouped by the year of disposition regardless of the year in which the arrest occurred.
- Only the final disposition of an arrest event is selected for statistical purposes. Intermediate dispositions (diversion programs, suspended proceedings, reopenings, retrials, or subsequent actions) are not included in OBTS data.
- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, OBTS selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment. If there are multiple court dispositions, OBTS selects the most serious court disposition and the associated offense.
- OBTS data on state institutional commitments may vary from information compiled and reported by other state agencies because of differences in the data collection systems and criteria.
- The OBTS file includes some persons whose age at arrest was under 18. These minors received a final disposition in adult court under provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 602, 707(a), 707(b), 707(c), and 707.1(a).
- Labels were changed from Superior and Lower Court to Court Disposition because of court consolidations.
- Fluctuations in counts from year to year may not necessarily be due to actual occurrences in the criminal justice system, but only reflect the degree to which reports of dispositions are reported and processed. An analysis has not been completed to ensure the validity of these data.
- The low counts for Sacramento County for the period 1995 through 1997 are attributed to problems with a new reporting system.
- The San Francisco Police Department does not report law enforcement releases. All cases are turned over to the District Attorney's Office for such a determination.
- After reviewing the 1993 through 1997 disposition data, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney responded with a letter expressing concerns about their data. For a copy of the letter contact the CJSC's Special Requests Unit.
- Dispositions of adult felony arrests in state institutions, while included in statewide totals, are excluded from county-level totals. Some county data may not match previously published data due to changes in the exclusion of the state institutional agencies.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance

- The definition of "domestic violence" is subject to varying interpretations by law enforcement agencies. As a result, different types of domestic relationships are included in the data base.
- Included in the data are any cases which resulted in a report being written by the responding law enforcement agencies. Data, therefore, include both cases where an arrest was made and those where circumstances did not warrant an arrest.

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- San Francisco Police Department stopped reporting data April 1997.

JAIL PROFILE SURVEY

- The source for the average daily jail population data is the California Board of Corrections' (BOC) "Jail Profile Survey." The CJSC's previously published jail data is not comparable due to the change in the data source.

Average Daily Population: the average number of inmates housed in a local facility per day. The number includes inmates housed in single cells, double cells, dormitories (multiple occupancy cells), disabled housing, disciplinary segregation, and administrative segregation. The values reported are based upon each facility's "early morning" count. See Type I, II, III, and IV Facilities.

Type I facility: a local detention facility used for detainment of persons for not more than 96 hours after booking, excluding holidays. Type I facilities may also detain persons on a court order, for their own safekeeping or sentence persons to a city jail as inmate workers. This facility may also house inmate workers sentenced to the county jail, provided such placement in the facility is made voluntarily by the inmate. As used in this section, the BOC defines an inmate worker as a person assigned to do designed tasks outside his/her cell or dormitory, pursuant to the written policy of the facility, for a minimum of four hours each day on a five-day scheduled work week.

Type II facility: a local detention facility for the detention of persons pending an arraignment, during a trial, or a sentence of commitment.

Type III facility: a local detention facility used only for persons convicted and sentenced.

Type IV facility: a local detention facility or portion of it designated for the housing of inmates eligible under Penal Code Section 1208 for work/education furlough and/or other programs involving inmate access into the community.

Counts for Type I facilities are for the first quarter of each fiscal year (July through September). Counts for Type II, III, and IV facilities are for January through December.

For Type II, III, IV facilities data was not available for January through September 1995. Therefore, the 1995 data was taken from the October through December quarterly report.

Counts may not add to the total due to projections and rounding of numbers made by the BOC.